

DISPATCHCLASSIFICATION
S E C R E T

PROCESSING ACTION

MARKED FOR INDEXING

TO

INFO.

FROM

SUBJECT

Chief, Africa Division

O Dr. Friedrich Wilhelm REISSNER

ACTION REQUIRED - REFERENCES

ATTA-5103

1. Attached are traces on Subject which were compiled in 1958. Shortly thereafter CATIDE responded to KURARK's request for information on Subject by admitting "loose contact" with him in Egypt but disclaiming control or direction. CATIDE reported that REISSNER was suspected of French I. S. connections, was deeply involved in weapons trading in the Arab world, was presumed to have a close connection with the Egyptian I. S. although proof was lacking. As of 1960 REISSNER and his wife planned to leave Cairo and settle in Tunis, where they stopped over en route to Munich. They arrived in Munich in October of 1960 and two days later as REISSNER got into his newly purchased car and drove off, there was an explosion which injured him seriously and required amputation of a leg. Police speculated that the OAS Main Rouge had rigged the explosion. As of 1961 Subject had recovered from the accident, and intercepted correspondence revealed that he was heavily engaged in business activity, and planned to move to Tunis in May. A letter from one Cherif in Tunis discussed possible business ventures with Maereck and Mondheur. The REISSNERS (according to intercepted correspondence) had apparently left Cairo under a cloud of some sort, were black-listed, could not return there, and were obliged to dispose of their personal belongings as best they could with the help of friends.

2. There is nothing in the 201 which specifically gives reason to believe that he is working for the Bloc, although this cannot be excluded. Like numerous other former Nazi intelligence personalities, he is apparently an opportunist who still maintains intelligence connections, and CHRISTMANN was probably not wrong in saying that REISSNER would do anything for money.

Attachment - As stated, herewith

Distribution:

Original & 1 - Addressee, w/attachment

1 Attachment

CROSS REFERENCE TO

CS 6024

DISPATCH SYMBOL AND NUMBER

ATTN-1567

DATE

17 FEB 1966

14 February 1966

CLASSIFICATION

S E C R E T

HQS FILE NUMBER

C 3

OFFICE

AF/1/CI

TYPIST

C 3

COORDINATING

OFFICE SYMBOL

DATE

OFFICER'S NAME

OFFICE SYMBOL

DATE

OFFICER'S NAME

OFFICE SYMBOL

DATE

OFFICER'S NAME

OFFICE SYMBOL

DATE

OFFICER'S NAME

OFFICE SYMBOL

DATE

OFFICER'S NAME

OFFICE SYMBOL

DATE

OFFICER'S NAME

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 252B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2601 2006

DISPATCH**REPRODUCIBLE COPY**

CONTINUATION OF
DISPATCH

CLASSIFICATION
SECRET

DISPATCH SYMBOL AND NUMBER
ACTV - 3507

3. In case reporting to be able to get current copies
traces on RESEARCH which will be sent to you if available.

4. Refer the attached dispatch which shows that anyone
whoever has been working for the government. The names and a
probable time period (1945 and 1947 years) is available.
Should you wish to see the full report and any other
about this case and should be in with working in future.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

FORM 530

USE PREVIOUS EDITION

CLASSIFICATION
SECRET

☐ CONTINUED

PAGE NO.
2

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

3. The following are traces on Willi BEISSNER:

a) One Wilhelm BEISSNER was Gestapo chief in Lodz, Poland and Zagreb, Croatia during World War II. One of the most cruel Gestapo officials, responsible for the deaths of a great many Jews in Poland, as well as a number of other victims in districts where he had been stationed. age 35, height 1 meter 80 centimeters; dark hair parted on left side; bad teeth; speaks with slight lisp; has very noticeable white spots on one of his hands due to some acid having spilled on it. Prior to World War II was an advisor in the Foreign Politics Section of the German Foreign Office, of which ROSENBERG was the head. Subject was a specialist in the Balkan states and had much to do with the Ir on Guard putsch in Rumania. At the same time he was an SS Hauptsturmfuehrer in Heinrich HIMMLER's headquarters. At the outbreak of World War II he went to Poland and was made Chief of the Gestapo in Lodz. After three or four months he returned to Germany, was promoted to Sturmbannfuehrer, and became an advisor for the Near East in the RSHA, which was the SS security organization. He made several trips to Near East countries in 1939 and 1950. Early in 1941 he went to Yugoslavia, and became Gestapo chief in Bagreb. He was recalled from there to Berlin due to differences with the German Ambassador, KASCHE. Toward the end of 1941 he was again in the RSHA with a roving assignment which included travels to Greece and, later, to North Africa. In 1942 he was in North Africa with ROMMEL on a special mission for the Gestapo with another Gestapo man named WECKE (fnu). In late 1943 or early 1944 he returned to Berlin and was promoted to Obersturmbannfuehrer, and was named the "referent" or expert, for Switzerland. He traveled much and directed his work in Switzerland from outside that country. The informant for this report last saw him late in December 1944 and early 1945, in Milan. Subject is married; has one child; is separated from his wife. (Report No. B-2461, KUTWIN, Bern, dated 12 April 1945, from a German official who deserted to Switzerland in February 1945).

b) In November 1943 Subject was in Amt VI C, RSHA, and directing the build-up of a Near East espionage network, operating from Italy.

c) Subject was an SD official in Tunis during World War II, and had liaison with the Grand Mufti. After the war he escaped an American prison camp in Italy, probably with French help, and went to the French Zone of Austria. Now living in Munich. (Vienne ODCPAL report P/01435 of 9 May 1950).

all: ATW-1567

CS COPY

1) Faysal SHAYKH-al-ARD, recruiting agent for the RSHA in Germany and personal friend of BEISSNER's; his family in Syria cooperated with the Germans.

2) Babjat SHAYKH-al-ARD, Faysal's father; a doctor; in 1945 lived in Mohajeria Damascus.

3) Majid SHAKH-al-ARD, Coordinated Arab activities in Germany during World War II. Was interrogated by the British in 1945 when he returned to Aleppo. Is connected with the Grand Mufti.

4) Shawkat SAKATI, friend of Faysal SHAYKH-al-ARD's. Studied in Germany and was extremely pro-German. His address was Rue Mouhadden, Damascus, but in 1944 he was reported as the municipal doctor of Maaret en-Namaane, near Istakia. (RLBW-453, 2 November 1948, from traces no longer identifiable).

RESTRICTED COPY

Att 1: AHW-1567

CS COPY